

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 8, 1977

NO. 19

EVENING TELEVISION

CBS - BOB SCHIEFFER (NO KALB)

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, NOW HALF-WAY THROUGH HIS
MIDDLE EAST TRIP, GAVE A PESSIMISTIC VIEW TODAY THAT ANY

PEACE CONFERENCE MIGHT COME ABOUT SOON. VANCE TOLD A
NEWS CONFERENCE IN JORDAN THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS ARE AS WIDE AS EVER, BUT WITH MORE
WORK AND MORE BARGAINING, HE SAID, THE GENEVA PEACE
CONFERENCE COULD BE RECONVENED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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ABC - NO WEEK-END NEWS

NBC - NO VALERIANI

NEWSPAPERS

WASHPOST - DON OBERDORFER FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY REPORTED SOME NARROWING OF THE GAP BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL ON A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT SAID U.S. EFFORTS MUST BE INTENSIFIED IF A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE IS TO BE CONVENED THIS YEAR.

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE, IN MIDWAY STATUS REPORT, INDICATED MOVEMENT TOWARD CONSENSUS PAINFULLY SLOW--NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA BUT NO PROGRESS ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

-- VANCE PRESENTING CONCRETE & DETAILED PROPOSALS DURING TALKS WITH LEADERS; ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN SOURCES & OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN EARLIER MEETINGS, PROPOSALS INCLUDE: COMPROMISE PLAN FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, MECHANISM FOR SELF-DETERMINATION BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS; ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN STAGES WITH ARAB EVIDENCES OF PROGRESSIVELY NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

-- VANCE STRONGLY SUGGESTED GENEVA CONF BY OCTOBER IS OUT & SEEMED MORE TENTATIVE THAN BEFORE ABOUT CONF BY END OF YEAR, SAYING US MUST INTENSIFY DISCUSSIONS WITH ARABS & ISRAEL TO BUILD BASIS FOR GOING TO GENEVA.

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NY TIMES -- BERNIE GWERTZMAN FROM AMMAN

LEAD: AT HALFWAY POINT IN ME MISSION, "VANCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH EITHER IN SUBSTANCE OF ME SETTLEMENT OR IN PROCEDURES TO GET TO GENEVA."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE HAS NOT SHARED CONTENT OF HIS TALKS WITH REPORTERS, BUT FOLLOWING POINTS CAN PROBABLY BE MADE ACCURATELY:

-- VANCE FOUND ISSUES HOLDING UP GENEVA CONF TO BE AS TOUGH AS BEFORE (PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION; ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; PALESTINIAN HOMELAND).

-- WHILE ARAB LEADERS AGREE ON MORE THAN THEY DISAGREE, SADAT'S WORKING GROUPS PROPOSAL OPPOSED BY ASSAD & HUSSEIN.

-- WHILE RESULTS OF VANCE MISSION DON'T PROVIDE BASIS FOR OPTIMISM, PROBABLY INACCURATE TO CONCLUDE US EFFORT DOOMED TO FAILURE. PARTIES SEEM TO WANT TO NEGOTIATE PEACE

AGREEMENT AS ALTERNATIVE TO WAR.

-- ASSUMING VANCE DOES NOT FIND DRAMATIC SHIFT IN ISRAEL'S POSITIONS, US MAY HAVE TO BECOME MORE OF ADVOCATE & LESS A MEDIATOR TO BRING ABOUT NEEDED COMPROMISES.

WIRES

UPI- JIM ANDERSON FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "VANCE SAID SATURDAY HE PLANS TO SET UP SERIES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS AMONG ME REPS THIS FALL AT UN TO PAVE WAY FOR RECONVENING GENEVA PEACE TALKS."

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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE SAID MEETINGS WOULD BE ON LESS FORMAL LEVEL THAN PROPOSED "WORKING GROUP" & ASSAD HAS APPROVED SYRIAN PARTICIPATION.

-- AT PRESS CONF, VANCE SAID ISRAELIS WANT SUBSTANTIAL PART OF NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED AT GENEVA, WHILE ARABS WANT AS MUCH SETTLED BEFORE CONF BEGINS.

-- VANCE WOULD NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF TALKS BUT LISTED FOLLOWING AS HAVING BEEN DISCUSSED: NATURE OF PEACE, OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

AP - BARRY SCHWEID FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "VANCE SAID US WILL HAVE TO INTENSIFY ITS MEDIATING EFFORTS IF A PEACE CONFERENCE ON ME IS TO BE HELD BEFORE END OF YEAR."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TOLD NEWS CONF HE AGREES WITH ARAB POSITION THAT IT'S BETTER TO RESOLVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF GENEVA CONF.

-- VANCE INDICATED THERE WAS NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON NATURE OF PEACE BUT ACKNOWLEDGED HE MADE LITTLE HEADWAY ON PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

-- ON ISSUE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, VANCE DECLINED TO DISCUSS IT IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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REUTER -- ROY GUTMAN FROM AMMAN

LEAD: VANCE HAS REPORTED MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING ONE OF KEY ISSUES IN ME DISPUTE -- THE NATURE OF PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL & ARAB STATES AFTER OVERALL SETTLEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT, ASSAD & HUSSEIN HAD TOLD REPORTERS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AIDES THAT THEY UNWILLING TO SHIFT FROM THEIR PREVIOUS STANCE ON THE ISSUE; THUS IT APPEARED VANCE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THEM IN PRIVATE.

-- POLITICAL ANALYSTS SAID VANCE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN RECIPROCAL CONCESSION FROM ISRAEL IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE WHATEVER HE OBTAINED FROM ARAB SIDE. OTHERWISE, IT WOULD APPEAR FLEXIBILITY IS ON ONE SIDE ONLY. CHRISTOPHER

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